

NEEDS OF THE NAVY

TWO BATTLESHIPS TO BE ADDED TO FLEET.

President's Recommendation That Four Be Constructed This Year Not Heeded by Congress—Avoids Rivalry with Other Nations.

The senate concurred with the house in limiting to two the number of battleships to be authorized this year. The president was insistent that there should be four. Congress, which holds the purse strings, would only grant the smaller number. That ends the matter for the time being. If the majority in congress could have been brought to believe that the two additional ships would be an effectual insurance against war it would have voted them in spite of the fact that expenses are outrunning receipts and that economy is highly expedient. The majority did not agree with the president as to the need of so much insurance. The coming years will determine whether it or the president was the wiser.

There is a belief which perhaps is not ill founded that the result of this year's contest over battleships will be an annual provision for two ships, thus doubling the program of recent years. In 1906 only one battleship was authorized; ditto in 1907. It would take too long if the program of a ship a year were adhered to, to provide substitutes for the smaller battleships still in commission, which were constructed several years ago. Those battleships do not compare favorably with the huge ones which are being constructed nowadays and should not be counted in the same class with them.

The needs of the navy are not restricted to battleships. It requires more and better armored cruisers, torpedo boats, and torpedo boat destroyers and submarines. It needs more colliers and all the other paraphernalia of a complete fleet. The appropriations for these different vessels and for the sailors to man them will add to the bulk of future appropriation bills, but they will be necessary expenses.

The special naval activity of one country almost inevitably sets the pace for others. If a foreign nation with which there appeared to be any danger of the United States coming into collision were to set about increasing its naval force at an unusual rate congress would change its present policy and proceed to build ships on a more extensive scale. On the other hand, if the United States were suddenly to expand its program of naval construction in a marked degree, other nations, uncertain as to the purpose, would hasten to insure themselves by adding more vessels to their fleets. That would be an unwholesome rivalry which should be avoided for the sake of the taxpayers.—Chicago Tribune.

Testimonial to American Navy.

Some of the criticism that has lately been directed against the navy may have come from sincere, conscientious but timid men, though most of the critics seem to be constitutionally unfitted to see good in anything.

If there are any persons who are really convinced that our battle-ships are inferior they should listen to what Sir William Henry White has to say. Sir William was for nearly 20 years responsible designer of all British warships, and the purchase of two of his designs was the foundation of the present American navy, for from those designs the Charleston and the Baltimore were built.

According to this good authority, we have naval architects as capable as any in the world, and our shipbuilding yards are quite equal to any in Great Britain. The result is that, in Sir William's opinion, the United States has a fleet that, ship for ship, is as good as anything the world contains and, next to the British navy, is the most formidable in existence.

This testimonial from a man who knows what he is talking about should more than offset the vapors of amateurs who assert that the American navy would be unable to repeat the glorious exploits of Manila and Santiago if we were opposed by a first-class power.

The Question in Illinois.

What has been done to Sullivan—or to Bryan—in the meanwhile that he who was once obnoxious should now be acceptable? The Nebraska statesman, according to all accounts, is as severely pure as ever. Sullivan, for all we know or can see or hear, is as tough as ever. We cannot be sure that he was ever an anti-Bryan man. We must assume, therefore, that he sinned in methods and details, and it is obvious that Bryan has forgiven him. But why? That is and remains the question.—New York Sun.

THEY CALL ON CANNON.

Methodist Conference Asks Action on Liquor Shipment Bill.

Washington, D. C.—A committee from the board of bishops of the Methodist Episcopal church, whose general conference is now being held in Baltimore, Friday called on Speaker Cannon and presented to him resolutions that had been adopted by the conference asking that the Littlefield interstate liquor shipment bill, now pending before the judiciary committee of the house, be reported with favorable recommendations; that the house pass the bill and send it to the senate for consideration and that action be had there before the adjournment of the present session of congress. Among the members of the committee were Gov. Hanly of Indiana, Gov. Hoch of Kansas, Judge Charles A. Pollock of Fargo, N. D., Dr. A. B. Leonard of New York City and L. C. Murdock of Kingston, Pa.

Gov. Hanly, who acted as spokesman, pleaded for the relief of states like Indiana, Kansas and others which, he said, are handicapped in the execution of their state prohibition laws from the fact that intoxicating liquors can be brought into the state through interstate commerce shipments.

Speaker Cannon replied that it was within the jurisdiction of the state to exercise full police powers to prohibit the use of liquor in the state; that the state by legislation could make it an offense to use liquor, and then every one using it could be punished, whether it was obtained by interstate shipment or not. The states, he said, had failed to avail themselves of this opportunity.

Gov. Hoch claimed that his state, which has strict prohibition laws, could not control the use of intoxicants because of the lack of co-operation on the part of the United States with the state government.

A TEMPLE TO PEACE.

Cornerstone for Home of Union of American Republics Laid.

Washington, D. C.—Under splendid auspices of patronage and beautiful spring weather, the cornerstone was laid Monday of the proposed home for the International Union of American Republics, or as Secretary Root aptly called it, "a temple dedicated to international friendship." Three thousand persons, including representatives of political, official and social life in Washington, and who occupied seats on the stands composing a great quadrangle, were interested spectators of the ceremony. The decorations were in keeping with the occasion. Flags and colors of 21 American Republics floated in the breeze over the grandstands, while the coats of arms of these countries were displayed at many places about the stands. Over the speakers' portion of the president's stand decorations were in the colors of the United States and Brazil. The latter in honor of Ambassador Nabuco.

There were addresses by the president, Secretary Root, Andrew Carnegie, Brazilian Ambassador Nabuco and reading of cable messages of congratulation from the presidents of the Latin-American republics.

MORE KANSAS MONEY.

State Bank Statement Shows Increase in Deposits of \$3,500,000.

Topeka, Kan.—The 747 Kansas state banks have recovered from the effects of the panic and now show an increase in deposits of nearly \$1,000,000 over that of a year ago. The deposits show an increase of more than \$3,500,000 over the statement made in the panic, December 3. These figures were made public by John Q. Royce, state bank commissioner, who gave out the statement of the banks March 31.

Owing to the fact that the call for the statement for the state banks came at a different time than that of the national banks no comparison is made. On May 6 of last year the banks made a statement showing that the deposits were more than \$75,000,000. In August the deposits were \$80,000,000. This amount was exceptionally large at that time on account of the harvest money. In December the deposits dropped to \$73,000,000 and by the end of March they had increased to \$76,000,000, \$1,000,000 more than a year ago.

Fire At the Glenn Pool.

Tulsa, Ok.—The Texas Oil company's pumping station and a string of tanks of oil on the company's property and the Franchot lease adjoining, in the Glenn pool, were destroyed by fire Sunday causing a loss of \$35,000. The tanks caught fire from burning trash and the flames soon spread to the pumping station. This is the third big fire that has occurred in the Glenn pool within the past six weeks.

Taft Sails From Colon.

Colon, Colombia.—Secretary Taft sailed from here at three o'clock Tuesday afternoon on the Prairie for Charleston.

THE SIXTIETH CONGRESS

CONDENSED NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITOL.

The Most Important Items Gathered From Each Day's Session of Senate and House.

A Petition to Cannon.

Washington, D. C.—A committee composed of Messrs. Clark of Missouri, Clayton of Alabama, Fitzgerald of New York and Rainey of Illinois, appointed by Minority Leader Williams Monday, called upon Speaker Cannon and laid before him a petition signed by all the Democratic members of the house asking the consideration of the Stevens bill or any other bill, putting wood pulp and print paper on the free list. Speaker Cannon informed the committee that he would give the petition his "most distinguished consideration and attention."

Senator Stone's Concession.

Washington, D. C.—Senator Stone (Mo.) said in the senate Tuesday that in view of the opinion of the other senators he would allow his resolution fixing a time when the United States shall remove its authority from the Philippines and join with other nations to guarantee the neutrality of those islands to go over the next session of congress.

A Dinner to the Governors.

Washington, D. C.—As a prelude to the conference for the conservation of the national resources of the country, President Roosevelt gave a dinner at the White House Tuesday night to the governors who are here to attend the conference. It was the first social function at which the president of the United States has met the chief executives of the various states and territories.

Lilley Hides His Sentiments.

Waterbury, Conn.—Congressman George L. Lilley has replied to the request of the congressional committee on the submarine boat inquiry that he submit his private correspondence to the committee. He declines to tell the nature of his reply, but it is understood that he will not disclose the contents of his confidential letters to constituents.

Would Know More About Opium.

Washington, D. C.—The president Monday transmitted to congress a letter from Secretary of State Root, counseling the commencement at once of an international investigation into the opium question in the far east, and recommending that congress appropriate \$20,000 for this country's participation therein.

Created 50 Captains.

Washington, D. C.—Under the provisions of a bill passed by the house Monday through suspension of the rules, the office of Captain of the Philippine scouts was created. This has the effect of providing for the addition of 50 captains to the existing military establishment.

Money Goes Back to Treasury.

Washington, D. C.—Repayments to the treasury by the national depository banks under the call of April 28 Tuesday amounted to \$20,003,500. This is upward of three and a quarter million in excess of the amount required to be paid by May 9.

To Restore Motto on Coins.

Washington, D. C.—The senate committee on finance Tuesday voted unanimously to report the bill already passed by the house providing for the permanent restoration of the words "In God We Trust" to gold and silver coins of the United States.

A Job for the Artists.

Washington, D. C.—A resolution authorizing the house committee on the library to employ "artists of reputation and ability" to paint 17 oil portraits of former speakers of the house, was Tuesday reported favorably by the committee.

Pensions for Bull Snake and Coyote.

Washington, D. C.—The senate Tuesday passed a bill to give pensions at the rate of \$20 per month to Bull Snake and Old Coyote, Crow Indians who went to the relief of Custer and Crook in their fight with the Sioux Indians in 1876.

Currency Bill Agreement.

Washington, D. C.—By a vote of 138 to 16 the Republican members of the house of representatives Monday night agreed to an emergency currency bill drawn by the special committee appointed by the same conference last week.

Naval Bill Carries \$122,662,715.

Washington, D. C.—The conference report on the naval appropriation bill was adopted by the senate Monday without debate. As finally agreed upon, the bill carries \$122,662,715.

Agree to Adjourn May 23.

Washington, D. C.—At a conference Monday between the leaders of the house and senate, it practically was agreed that congress shall adjourn Saturday, May 23.

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